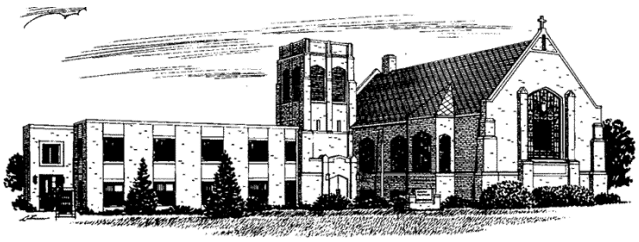
SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph



The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary
Danielle Hohman, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

January 2017

As many of you are aware, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. A year-long celebration, world-wide, began with Reformation Day in 2016. In fact a joint Lutheran – Roman Catholic commemoration in Lund, Sweden marked the occasion. You can watch this historical event at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UEBSJugVyY.

During the coming months, there will be several occasions when we will take special note of our Lutheran heritage and with it, the person behind our name, Martin Luther. While we do not celebrate Luther himself, we do celebrate the transforming work of the Holy Spirit – still active in and through the church.

Beginning this Sunday, January 8, each week at worship we will have "A Moment with Father Martin." During this time we might hear something from the talks Luther held with students around his kitchen table, his writings, such as the catechism, or one of his other written works. It is my hope that through these "moments" we gain appreciation for our heritage as well as a word for our continuing reformation in the church today.

Pastor Joan

Annual Meeting
Saron's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2017. A potluck will follow the 11:00 worship and the meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm. All voting members of Saron are encouraged to attend, as we adopt a spending plan for 2017, receive reports, and hold elections.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** and **Marilyn Klann** are at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in January 2017 Birthday Wishes

Jan. 2 - Betty Ross
Sophie de la Foret
3 – Richard Schalon
4 - Zachery Booth
Kathleen Preston
9 - Anthony Kickles, Jr.
13 - Nicholas Jantz
14 - T. J. Koehler
15 - Meredith Hammer
Pat Breyen
Walter Schmuhl
Colin Ashley
16 - Jonah Rood
18 - Hayley Frey
19 – Kathie Nadeau
Karen Hinckley
24 - Lyra Krall
25 – Karen Johnson

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in January …

Jan. 1 - Charles and Linda Pater
2 – Jim and Jennifer Nicholas
19 – Steve and Denise Cook

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

WITH SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Dorris Doutt upon her death November 26. We keep Dorris' daughter, Cheryl (Jack) Houser and the rest of her family in our prayers.

Also, to the family of Mike Harper upon his death November 28. Our prayers go out to Mike's wife, Kristen and the rest of his family at this time of loss.
God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1a

BAPTISM

We welcome to God' family through Holy Baptism Piper O'Connor Gray-Roll, daughter of Marcus Roll and Beth Gray-Roll. Piper, born on December 9, was baptized at Saron on Christmas Day, December 25.

PASTOR OLESON'S SABBATICAL

by Pastor Oleson

"Pastor's sabbatical is coming up. What can I/we do to help?" That is a great and appreciated question. As the time gets closer, we will get more specific with needs. Right now, we know this. We will likely need folks who might be called on short notice for a special project, especially office help. For example, who might be called if an extra bulletin is needed for a funeral. We are also planning devotional readings for use during the sabbatical time. These meditations, written by Saron members and friends,

will coincide with sabbatical themes. This is something that we can begin now. If you are willing to participate in this project, (especially, by writing a paragraph or two), please contact Pastor.

Watch for specifics as the days get closer. And, of course, you are encouraged to pray – for Pastor Oleson, for her renewal and learning, and for the Saron community, that the sabbatical also provide learning for them – hearing different voices in preaching, and taking on some additional/different responsibilities. Keeping connected and involved will be key to making this a successfully sabbatical for all parties!

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the sabbatical planning team (Kerrie Hoodlebrink, Mary Alice Brunner, and Pastor). We'd be happy to try and answer your questions and receive your thoughts.

TIME TO RENEW "LIVING LUTHERAN" MAGAZINE

"*Living Lutheran,"* the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, keeps us informed of events and issues impacting Lutherans. Subscribers also have access online to more than 9,000 archived articles and 400 Study guides. Those that have been enjoying *"Living Lutheran"* this past year or those who would like to begin receiving *"Living Lutheran"* will be able to purchase or renew for the price of $9.00 a year.

Please make out a check to Saron and write "Living Lutheran" in the memo area of your check or place cash in an envelope clearly identified with your name, the amount enclosed and the words *"Living Lutheran."* This can be handed in to the office or placed in the offering plate. We want to get all of the subscriptions in as soon as possible so that there will be no lapse in current subscriptions.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday Jan 1 –
Name of Jesus
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

Sunday Jan 8 –
Baptism of Our Lord
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29 (3)
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday Jan 15 –
Second Sunday After Epiphany
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11 (8)
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Sunday Jan 22 –
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday Jan 29 –
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Nursery Help Needed

With our schedule of two services, we are always willing to have more help for the nursery. Danielle Hohman is our paid child care provider. We also need a volunteer for each service so that there are 2 persons in the nursery at all times. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness. We'd like 8 volunteers for early service and 8 for late service so that you need serve only once every 2 months.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Learning book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Wednesday Bible Study

You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. During January we will meet on the 6th, 13th, 20st, and 27th.

Thursday Bible Class

A new 16-session study, entitled "The Greatest Story: Paul" begins January 5 at 9:30 am. Participants will journey with the Apostle Paul from Acts through the Epistles. Cost of the book is $13.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Here is the picture of all of us at the dinner table last Sunday after our discussion of C.S.Lewis.

The Ephesus Group will next meet at the Pater's home on Sunday, January 15, at 5:00 pm. We will be doing one (possibly 2) of the meditations from the book Praying with C.S. Lewis. New attendees are always welcome!

Men's Monthly Devotion

On Saturday, January 7, Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

We are resuming up our weekly gathering Tuesday, January 10 at 6PM.

To start us off Pastor David will introduce a dialogue Nicholas Kristof wrote in the NYTimes summarizing a conversation he had with Rev. Tim Keller on what does it mean to be a Christian in the 21st century? Since Nicholas is an open inquirer and Tim is a smart, orthodox Christian the conversation has some substance and might even take us a few weeks to ponder.

After the discussion, we (any who desire) will retire to a local pub to continue the discussion.
Hope to see you there.

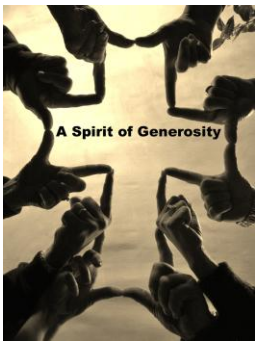
1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting for the New Year is actually on the second Sunday in February. February 12th, 6:30, in the upstairs lounge is where you will find us. The book is A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman. The reviews on this one are excellent. Ove is a curmudgeon. He has "staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell." (Amazon) Behind this description there is a compelling story, a charming story, a story about how one life has an impact on many others. Don't miss reading this one and our resulting discussion.

The book chosen for March 5, 2017 is I Am Malala, by Malala Yousafzai and Christine Lamb.
Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354 or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination". (Sidney Shelton, Author)

Support



….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46c

As we look ahead to a new year, let us remember with gratitude all that God has given us. May we use our lives to be the eyes and hands and feet of Christ as we show His love and compassion in this broken world.

We are especially thankful for the generosity of Saron's people. May we continue to give with thankful hearts and deeds and may God guide us as we live out His mission in 2017.

God's work. Our hands.

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Dave Bradley or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Dave Bradley or Denise Cook.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

In December, 18 beautiful poinsettia plants were delivered to some of our members, who at times may find it difficult to attend worship services.

Saron's college students were sent cards and gift cards wishing them Good Luck on Exams and Merry Christmas - Love and Joy to Michael, Tyler, Connor, Drew, and Tim!

God's Blessings to all in 2017

FACEBOOK

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your own or your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

MICHAGAN BLOOD DRIVE -

Mark your 2017 calendars for Saron's next BLOOD DRIVE! February 27, from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tell you friends and neighbors, all are welcome to give the gift of LIFE.
Thank you, Keith Stevens and Marilyn Lucy

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

A big thank you to all the folks who have served or baked cookies this year, for the BH Soup Kitchen.

We are always in need of LARGE CANS of fruit.
If you would like to help out in 2016, let me know!

Thanks,
Jan Stevens 429-2044

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle's Christmas Party will be held at the home of Karen Johnson on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone should bring a dish to pass (not dessert) and also a monetary gift for the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen.

SARON CHURCH WOMEN BAKE SALE

Saron Church Women thanks everyone who participated in the Bake Sale held on December 4, 2016. Proceeds from that day came to $457.00.

Thanks, also, for the continued donations on December 11, totaling an additional $81.00. The grand total of $538.00 will be divided among ELCA Good Gifts, the Berrien County Department of Health and Human Services Operation Good Cheer project (so six foster children can each receive three Christmas gifts), and the Mentor Family Fund. Mentor Family Fund donations are accepted throughout the year. Thanks, again, for all of your support!

On Sunday, January 15, 2017 Saron Church Women Officers and Leaders will be installed. They are:

President: Melanie McCammon
Vice President: Linda Pater
Secretary: Janet Oleson
Treasurer: Denise Cook
Mission: Action Chair: Colleen Lundgren
CWU Representative: Irma Gorman
Deborah Circle Chair: Melanie McCammon
Dorcas Circle Co-Chair: Marybeth Culverhouse and Irma Gorman

Saron Church Women Rummage Sale

On Saturday, June 10, 2017, Saron Church Women will be having a rummage sale in the church dining room. Please save items for the sale. We will let you know later when items may be brought to the church. Thank you.

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

Council News

Attendance Record	
12/04/2016	*106*
12/11/2016	*71*
12/18/2016	*88*
12/24/2016	*168*
12/25/2016	*34*
01/01/2017	*58*

Saron's Council Members – 2016

Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – President
Matt Bradley (*419.306.5780)* – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Support*
Matt Bradley (*419.306.5780)* - Support*
Tyler Cook (*269-930-2810*)– Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Liaision Statements:

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

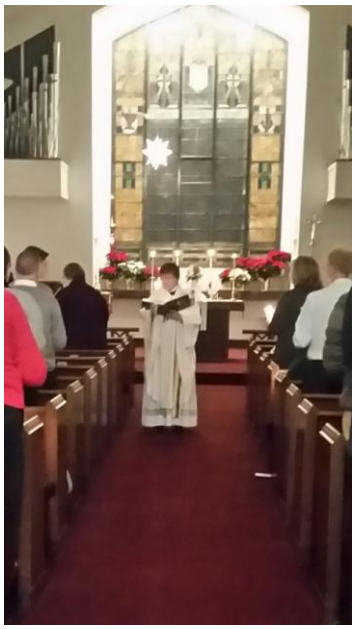
Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learnin



SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
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A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2017

Saron Volunteer Schedule

	January 1 Name of Jesus	***January 8 Baptism of Our Lord***		***January 15 Second Sunday After Epiphany***		***January 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany***		***January 29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***	
	9:30	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***
Assisting minister	Jan Stevens	Marilyn Frey	Austin Kamala	Marilyn Frey	Denise Cook	Sue Rood	Bob Kynast	Pauline Ngonyani	Bill Olson
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	Sue Rood	Pauline Ngonyani	Bob Kynast	Sally Schmuhl	Dan Fortenbacher	Wendy King	Lindsay Gaspari	Mary Kynast	Laurel Gacek
Ushers	Keith Stevens & Jim Manore	Eric and Deb Standen	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Steve Bell & Fritz Knauf	Dave & Sue Bailey	Jim Manore & Stephanie Ngonyani	Jerry and Ruth Stelling	David and Emma young	Peter and Karen Johnson
Acolyte	Molly Becker	Troy Burrow	Grant Gacek & Mia Bradley	Carter Hohman	Molly Becker	Jenna & Brooke Henderson	Austin Kamala & Mia Bradley	Brandon Burrow	Meredith Gacek
Nursery 1st	NO Nursery	Karen Hinckley	Krin Jurgensen	Deb Standen	Laura Stark	Allison Rood	Judi Huff	Fran Richards	Lindsay Gaspari
Nursery 2nd		Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman			
Bldg. close	Bob & Mary Kynast		Bruce & Linda Huff		Marilyn and Brad Frey		Colleen & Dennis Lundgren		
Snacks				OPEN		OPEN		OPEN	
Flowers		OPEN		Irma Gorman				Irma Gorman	

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 a.m. Worship	2 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	3 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	4 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Class	6	7 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
8 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	9 Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	10 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	11 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Deborah Circle Christmas Party	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 11:00 a.m. Installation of Saron Church Women Officers 5:00 p.m. Ephesus Bible Study Group	16 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	17 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	18 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 12:00pmPotluck 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting	23 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	24 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	25 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	30 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	31 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study				